



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Fire

Date: August 2, 2012

To: Honorable Don Samuels—Chair of Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee; and,
Honorable Betsy Hodges—Chair of Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Application for the Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Veterans Hiring program Grant for 2012

Recommendation: Direct the Minneapolis Fire Department to apply for a federal SAFER Veterans Hiring Program Grant.

Previous Directives: Council approved Resolution 2012R-352 for acceptance of the 2011 SAFER Grant.

Department Information

Prepared by: Luke Scardigli - Director of Finance
Presenters in Committee: John Fruetel - Fire Chief

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval ____	Date _____
Civil Rights Approval	Approval ____	Date _____
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval ____	Date _____

Financial Impact (*delete all lines not applicable to your request*)

- The grant amount covers the salary and benefits of firefighter positions that are filled by military veterans who are new employees not currently employed in the fire service.
- Any firefighter positions funded by this SAFER grant would mitigate the cost of hiring a new class of firefighters.
- There is no impact to the City's General Fund budget. SAFER funding will pay 100 percent of the salary and benefit costs for each funded position for three years.

Supporting Information

On July 31, 2012, the Minneapolis Fire Department was notified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the guidelines for FY2012 SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grants program had been released. The application period ends August 10, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

FEMA is encouraging fire departments applying for FY2012 SAFER hiring grants to make the recruitment and hiring of veterans a priority. Of the \$320 million authorized for the FY2012 SAFER grant program, \$50 million in grant funds will be set aside specifically to fund SAFER firefighter positions that are filled by military veterans. Each SAFER firefighter position that is filled by a military veteran will be eligible to receive full funding for three years instead of the usual two years.

There is no requirement for matching city funds under this grant. SAFER funding will pay 100% of the salary and benefit costs for each funded position.